

Hus Happenings

February 2008

Ushers & Greeters



February 3rd

Joyce McGivern and Jack Funcke
Helen Anderson and Pat Jones

February 10th

Marj Nejdil and Marge Pace
Joan Cross and Marlus Grimm

February 17th

Mac and Judy McLaskey
Ruby Warren and Eulalia Johnson

February 24th

Mike and JoAnne Hebert
Dona and Chelsey McDill

Per Capita for 2008 is \$27.00.

PULPIT FILLS FOR FEBRUARY

- 3rd** Dawn Flippen
10th Pastor Mel Ramous
17th Pastor Clint Twedt-Ball
24th Karen McCaa

February Birthdays

- 1st Karla Zahradnik
1st Anna Hansen
3rd Norm Reisetter
4th Melissa Peal
12th Hedy Benesh
15th Carol Cabbage
16th Marilyn Hess
19th Marissa Van Wyk
21st Elmer Rompot
28th Sean Koopman
28th Dorris Gerard



February Anniversaries

- 25th David & Michele Raim 19 years
26th Richard & Margaret Feiereisen 59 years

The Bible As A Letter

Søren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: "The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on it."

How true! The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.

Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

Transportation provided by the Deacons

Please call the office by the Thursday to schedule a ride to church. A Deacon will return your call and arrange to pick you up and take you home following worship service.

We are currently changing how we send out the Hus newsletter!

To be more cost efficient, we will be sending the newsletter through e-mail or copies will be printed and available to pick up at the church. Please inform the church office of your e-mail if you would prefer to receive it there.

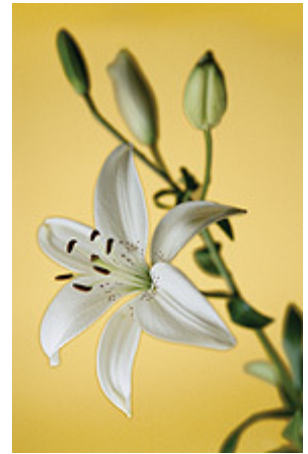
Hus E-mail address: huschurch@huschurch.org

Website: www.huschurch.org

Phone: 319-363-0067

Preparing Lent and Easter

What images come to mind when you think about Lent? I think of fish dinners at the Roman Catholic Church on my block. Fish instead of red meat on Friday is traditionally known as a sacrifice of sorts and has been a Lenten tradition for years. I also think of people giving up such things as chocolate, coffee, or something else as a discipline to accentuate the penitential nature of the season. Giving up something for Lent as a spiritual discipline has been practiced for centuries.



The idea of giving something up for Lent has its roots in the early church where people did penance in order to “reenter” the church after denying the faith, most likely in the face of violence or threat of death. They went through this penitential discipline as catechumens¹ prepared themselves for baptism. This time of preparation to enter (through baptism) or reenter (reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant) into full participation in the church was called Lent. This intense preparation was the primary “reason for the Lenten season” that ended Maundy Thursday. Baptisms and reaffirmations then occurred as part of the Easter Vigil.

The season of Easter was a continuation of the Lenten season and known as a time of mystogogy (learning the mystery of living life as a baptized follower of Christ and one who breaks bread in Christ’s name with all the faithful). We might learn something from going back to these ancient roots of the season and reclaiming Lent not only as a time of preparation, but also as a part of the larger season. Lent/Easter is a continuous journey to the font and into the mystery of baptismal living.

I wonder if in the midst of war, natural tragedy, unacceptable health care, and overwhelming poverty rates, giving up chocolate or eating catfish on Friday can be considered much of a sacrifice—especially when so many people are suffering without the basics of a life of dignity. Many of our brothers and sisters go without much of what we take for granted each day. They are suffering for daily bread and thirst for living water. Perhaps we should wade deeper into the ancient waters of our faith and reclaim this season of Lent/Easter as one continuous journey of preparation, encounter, and discovery in hopes that our lives and our community will be better equipped to live into the life to which Christ is calling us: a life of service and love for those who are in the greatest need.

Lent/Easter is a journey to Jerusalem where we hear Christ’s commandment (Maundy comes from the Latin word for commandment) of love and service, and encounter the depth of pain and suffering of Christ. We celebrate the rising of Christ along with our own dying and rising from the waters of baptism (either by baptism itself or a reaffirmation of baptism) at the Easter Vigil. Throughout the season of Easter we continue to remember our baptism by encountering the mystery of a life in Christ and breaking bread together.

Here are some ideas for reclaiming Lent as a time of preparation. Take time to add corporate daily prayer to the routine of your day. Invite others to join you. You may wish to begin each day with Morning Prayer and also have a midday prayer during the lunch hour and end the day with evening prayer. This practice may begin during Lent and become a part of the culture of your church.

As we travel through the most holy days of the church, called the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil and Sunday services), we change our emphasis from preparation to a renewed and revitalized practice. We celebrate and explore what it means to be people who are living into the mystery of a life in Christ. We enter into the life of Christ in baptism by dying to the old way of life and rising anew. The rhythm of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter is the rhythm of baptism: hearing the commandment of love, dying to the old way of life, and rising with Christ to show this love to all. This is the most important holy time or holiday for the church. Throughout the season of Easter we want to continue to remember, embrace, and celebrate this new life we have in Christ.

Throughout Easter we explore the wonderful mysteries of living into our baptism, known as mystagogical catechesis. We learn how to live into this life through participation in the sacraments and preaching that unfolds these mysteries in ways that apply to our daily lives. It is important to engage the sacraments along with the Word read and proclaimed each Sunday, especially during the season of Easter.

“ . . . anyone who is in Christ is a new creation . . . ”

“in baptism we have died with Christ, and from it we are raised to share in his resurrection. The old life has gone and a new life has begun.”



*Adapted from an article by Chip Andrus, Associate for Worship in Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA).
(<http://www.pcusa.org/ideas/06spring/lenteasterworkshop.htm>)*

1. *Catechumens: People preparing for baptism and full entry into the church*

Taylor Christmas Families Thank You!

Happy New Year! Can you believe that it has already been three weeks or more since most of you delivered your gifts to the adopted families from Taylor? My how time flies. I want to say thank you to all of you for taking extra time out of your busy holiday schedules to do good for others.

The reports that I have heard back from many of you have been moving. One person talked about how incredibly thankful a family was. They showed you their small Christmas tree about 2 feet tall and said that was all they had to celebrate with this year before you arrived. Another group shared how they had done this as a family activity. They drove to deliver the gifts in the sleet, debating whether to just have one person get out and deliver the gifts or to have two carloads of people get out. They took it as a sign that as they arrived the sleet changed to big, beautiful snowflakes. They got out of the cars, went up to the house and sang Christmas carols. It was a powerful moment.

From many of the stories it seemed like a two-way sort of evangelism took place. First, people receiving the packages saw church folks put their faith into action in a concrete way where they weren't seeking anything in return. Second, the people delivering the gifts received the ultimate gift, seeing places where God showed up to meet them when they lost themselves in Christian love.

If your experience was not a positive one, we want to hear about that as well. For all of you who gave a little extra this year, we thank you and hope that you were able to experience the Christ child being born anew, whether through a snowflake or the voice of one living on the edge.

Please keep the Matthew 25 Ministry Hub in your prayers in the coming year as we continue to grow this ministry. We would love to come and speak to your congregation to extend a personal thank you and to tell you more about what is happening here. We also want to remind you of a couple of ways you can be involved in the next couple of months. First, on February 10 there will be a youth mission experience and worship service called "For Christ's Sake." If you want to be part of this, let us know. Also, our next collection for children will be happening throughout the month of April. We will be collecting new and gently used childrens books to give to elementary children for summer reading. We will deliver a collection tub to you if you are interested.

Again, we thank you for all the ways you are working to help at-risk children and families. We hope your New Year is off to a great start and that you will continue your journey of discipleship throughout the year.

May God Continue to be revealed to you,
Clint Twedt-Ball

*The Matthew 25 Ministry Hub Mission:
Unite people of faith, Empower children and neighborhoods, Change lives!*

Rotational Sunday School Exploring God's World

Hus Church Sunday School is from
10:45 am - 11:30 am each Sunday

THE MIDDLE
SCHOOL KIDS HAVE
THEIR OWN ROOM
& CINDY IS THEIR
TEACHER!

**Youth in
High School
will meet in the
Youth Room
for
Sunday School
with Marcia,
Terry and Diane.**

**Kids ages 3-6th
grade meet in
the Scripture
Safari Room.
From there, we'll
direct the kids to
their station for
the day.**

The current rotational
lesson is *All about
the Bible!* There are
handouts available at
the back of the
church if you would
like to do a "walk
through" with us.
We'll also be learning
the books of the
Bible and how the
Bible came to be.
*We request that kids
each bring a Bible
during this rotation!*

The Stations:

Imagination Island:
Creative Art

Bible Broadway:
Drama

Movies on the
Mount: Video

**SCRIPTURE
SAFARI:
Bible Exploration**

Polar P.C.:
Computers

Adults meet in the upstairs Adult Sunday
School Room for class with Judy! Come join
in the discussion. Anyone is welcome.

Not Just For Kids

Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

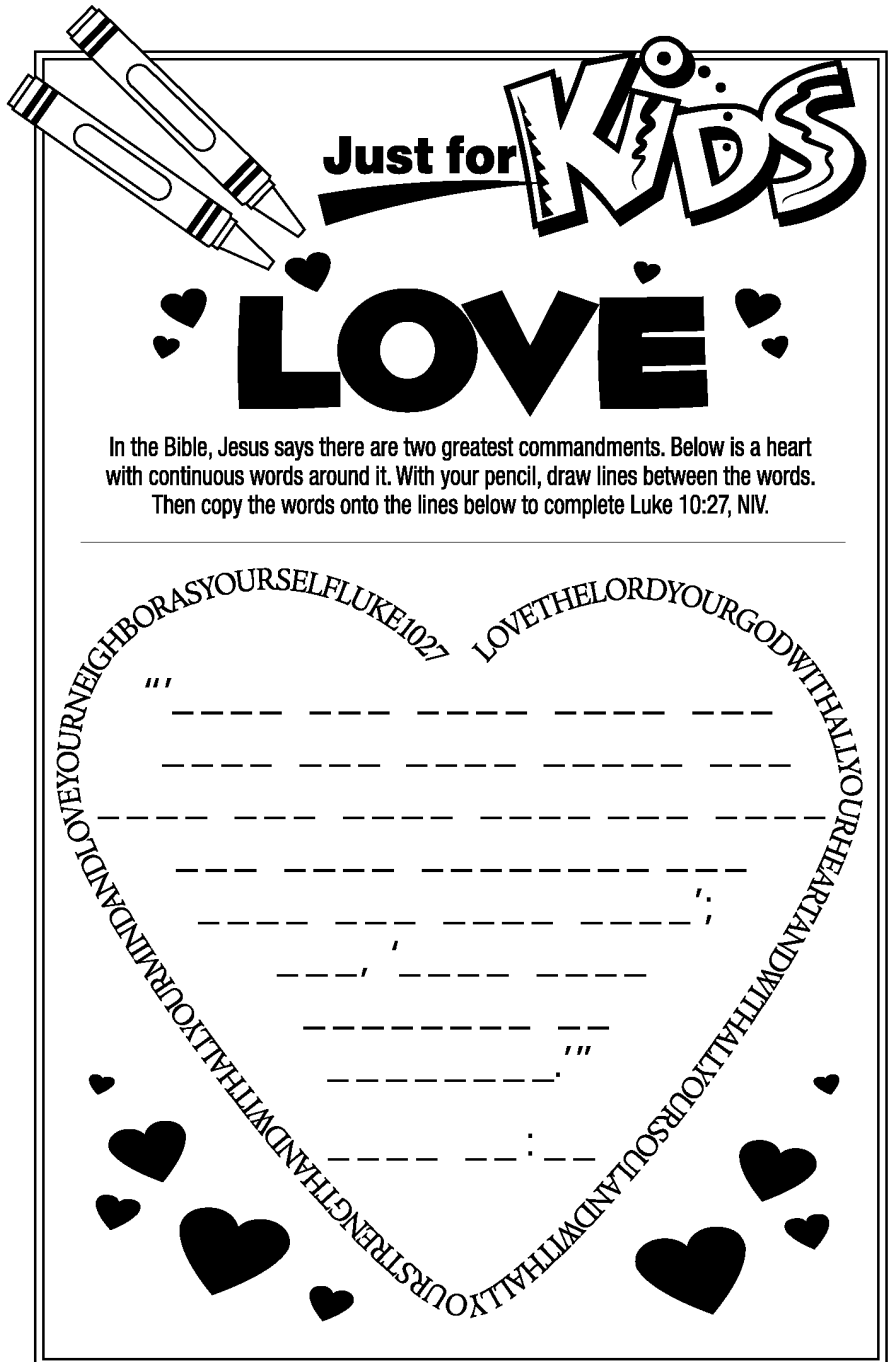
Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.

What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"





A HISTORY OF HUS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PART 4 CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

ADAPTED FROM A HISTORICAL TREATISE WRITTEN BY CHARLOTTE STELCIK

EARLY BEGINNINGS IN LINN COUNTY

In 1860 there were about 6,000 people in Cedar Rapids when Czech immigration began. By the middle of the 1860's there was a goodly number of Czech Protestants in Cedar Rapids. The first beginnings of religious worship were difficult for the Czechs because many of them severed their relations with the Catholic Church. These people were led by atheists who made the word Christian despised by the Czech people. Fanatic atheists roamed among the Czechs in Cedar Rapids preaching mostly concerning the denial of Christianity and claimed that the expedient plan would go back to Greek culture. For this reason the Cedar Rapids Czech community came to be called Czech Athens.

Among the first immigrants there were very few Protestants. Many became atheists because they were afraid to stand for the faith of their Hussite forefathers. They were known as the Evangelicals of the Reformed church. These people did not at first publicly espouse their religion but by holding meetings in their homes, they met and strengthened one another. Because of their poverty, it was years before they were able to afford a building in which to hold their religious services; therefore they met in homes to sing hymns to the accompaniment of a violin.

Occasionally these Protestants walked to Ely, nine miles from Cedar Rapids, to hear sermons by the Reverend Francis Kun, the minister of the Reformed Church in that rural community. This church, which had been organized in 1858, was the first Czech Protestant church in the United States.

Since the long trek to Ely was difficult for these people, they began to think of a place of their own for meeting. This couldn't be realized, though, because in 1869, F. B. Zdrubek, with his newspaper, "Pokrok," which means advancement, attacked the religious people, the word of God, and led the Czech people to the desecration of the Lord's Day in a disgraceful manner. It became a day for picnics, drinking, parties, which became so disgraceful that in many cases public officials had to take action. Only after this man left Cedar Rapids did the American people begin to notice the small group of Christians among the Czech and their efforts to establish a church.

In 1868 Miss E. J. Lund, a public school teacher, reported to her pastor, Reverend James Knox of the First Presbyterian Church, that only a few of her pupils attended any form of religious services. As a result a Sunday School for these Czech children was organized in July of that year and conducted in a small house on the corner of Seventh Avenue and Fifth Street near the Adams school. It was later held in two rooms of the Second Ward School. The whole congregation gladly accepted the friendly hand that was extended to them by Rev. Knox and some other of the English-speaking ministers in Cedar Rapids who took interest in the Czech people and served them. Our brethren began to meet in the old, empty building of the First Presbyterian Church. There they continued to hold services until the old church was torn down. To this old church Rev. Kun walked from Ely and preached three or four times a year.

After 1870, because the children lived too far away from the old First Presbyterian Church, attendance at the Sunday School decreased rapidly. Then in the year 1874, the Czech Evangelical people found a good friend in T. M. Sinclair, the owner of a packing plant where many of these people were employed. Sinclair was a devoted Christian and philanthropist. He gave the group fatherly care and because there was no better place, he made it possible for the group to meet in the factory in a shop where boxes were made. Here the congregation used boxes as seats and continued services for two years. Sinclair encouraged Czech Protestants to persevere in their efforts and invited workers to services; furthermore, in 1877 he built the Hope Mission Chapel (Third Presbyterian Church) on the hill in back of Saint Wenceslaus Church. Here at three o'clock Sunday School classes were taught in the English language, and at four o'clock church services were conducted in Czech. Rev. Kun came occasionally to preach and with the support of Sinclair, the little group increased and prospered.

During that same year, Rev. J. E. Szalatnay, superintendent of the Reformed churches in Bohemia, visited the Cedar Rapids congregation. Mr. Sinclair tried to persuade him to remain as the local pastor and even guaranteed him a salary, but Rev. Szalatnay found it impossible to comply with this urgent request. Because it was impossible for him to remain in Cedar Rapids, he searched for a preacher in Europe, mainly in Edinburgh, where Czech theologians studied, but he met with no success.

²⁴⁻²⁵ I urge you to pray for absolutely everything, ranging from small to large. Include everything as you embrace this God-life, and you'll get God's everything. And when you assume the posture of prayer, remember that it's not all asking. If you have anything against someone, forgive—only then will your heavenly Father be inclined to also wipe your slate clean of sins."

Mark 11:24-25 (MSG)

Two years later, on September 12th, with the aid of Mr. Sinclair, this little group of Protestants formally organized a Czech Reformed Church with Frank Nemecek, Jan Dudycha, and Karl Hromatka as their first elders. Services continued in the Hope Mission Chapel, conducted either by visiting ministers or by elders. Finally a Russian, Rev. Bonekempr, who offered to preach to the Czech congregation, came to the city at the expense of Mr. Sinclair. Since Rev. Bonekempr's knowledge of the Czech language was poor, it was only with difficulty that the members of the congregation were able to understand him. Because of that difficulty his work was not successful. He preached his last sermon July 2, 1882. In the meantime Mr. Sinclair's sudden death on March 24, 1881 brought sorrow to the congregation who he had so ably assisted.

After Rev. Bonekempr's brief pastorate, the church was often aided by Rev. Edward R. Burkhalter, the minister of the First Presbyterian Church. From 1883 to 1890 Rev. Kun again preached in the Hope Mission Chapel once a month. When he came, services were well attended. Other people who conducted services during that time were Rev. Schauffler of Oberlin College; John Rundus, John Musil, and F. T. Bastel, theological students at Oberlin; and Frank Rundus from Park College in Missouri.

Because of Him ~ Terry

PS: Don't forget to bring \$1 each week to youth group for Wolia!

Upcoming Calendar

February

3 rd	Youth serving Sunday Evening Meal at 1st Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids - 4 - 6 PM
6 th	Ash Wednesday
	Movie Night starts at 5:15 PM. Get to the youth room early for a seat, as we will start at 5:15 PM with prayer, pizza, pop, and the movie. Please bring \$3 to help cover cost of the pizza and pop.
9 th	Hus Racing League (HRL) 2008 Season begins. Registration at 9:30 AM, racing at 10.
12 th	President Lincoln's Birthday
13 th	Youth Group (Meal at 5:15 PM, gather at 5:45 PM)
14 th	Valentine's Day
18 th	President's Day
20 th	Youth Group (Meal at 5:15 PM, gather at 5:45 PM)
22 nd	President Washington's Birthday
23 rd	Youth volunteering at the JDRF Walk at Westdale Mall from 8 AM - Noon
26 th	Youth Ministry Parents Meeting, 8 PM at the Collins Road Panera Bread
27 th	Youth Group (Meal at 5:15 PM, gather at 5:45 PM)

Every Monday: Youth Prayer Time, 7 PM from where ever you are.

Every Wednesday: Marion High School Bible study at 7 AM.

Every Friday:

- ✠ Breakfast Club at Kennedy High School, Room 162 beginning at 7 AM. For more information contact Bob Dye at 393-7996 or email him at bob@eiayfc.com.
- ✠ Marion High School Bible study at 3 PM.

Times subject to change.

Events not scheduled yet will be announced as far in advance as possible so you can make plans to attend.

A Moment With God





Lord Jesus, We confess that we have held ill feelings and resentments against people. We call upon you and ask you to help us to forgive people, groups, institutions, churches, governments, and ourselves. We ask you Father, in the name of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to drop in our minds and bring to our remembrance the name of anyone or anything, whose actions or words real or imagined hurt us, or another person for which we hold or have held ill feelings and resentments, hate, envy, malice, vengeance, unforgiveness, bitterness or grudges against. Father, as you forgave us when we did not deserve to be forgiven, so likewise, we forgive, whether they deserve it or not; in Jesus name, Amen.

Author Unknown

24-25 *I urge you to pray for absolutely everything, ranging from small to large. Include everything as you embrace this God-life, and you'll get God's everything. And when you assume the posture of prayer, remember that it's not all asking. If you have anything against someone, forgive—only then will your heavenly Father be inclined to also wipe your slate clean of sins."*

Mark 11:24-25 (MSG)

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 3 PM	2 ✠ Men's Breakfast at Wilson Ave. Hy-Vee - 8 AM
3 ✠ Worship Service - 9:30 AM Teaching: Dawn Flippin ✠ Sunday School - 10:45 AM ✠ Youth serving Sunday evening Meal at 1 st Presbytery- 4 PM	4 ✠ Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM ✠ Leadership Meeting- 7 PM	5 ✠ Quilters - 8:30 AM ✠ Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM	6 Ash Wednesday ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 7 AM ✠ Choir - 5:30 PM ✠ Youth Group at Christ Presbyterian - 7 PM ✠ Ash Wednesday Service at Christ Presbyterian - 7 PM ✠ Worship Team - 8:30 PM	7 ✠ Red Hat Ladies - 4 PM	8 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 3 PM	9 ✠ Hus Racing League Registration- 9:30 AM Racing- 10 AM
10 ✠ Worship Service - 9:30 AM Teaching: Pastor Mel Ramous ✠ Sunday School - 10:45 AM	11 ✠ Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM	12 ✠ Quilters - 8:30 AM ✠ Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM ✠ Presbytery Meeting at Bettendorf Pres. ✠ Deacons meeting - 7:00 PM 	13 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 7 AM ✠ Common Meal - 5:15 PM ✠ Youth Group Movie Night - 5:15 PM ✠ Choir - 7:00 PM ✠ Worship Team - 8:30 PM	14 ✠ LCAE Luncheon at Hus- 12 - 1:30 PM 	15 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 3 PM	16
17 ✠ Worship Service - 9:30 AM Teaching: Pastor Clint Twedt- Ball ✠ Sunday School - 10:45 AM	18 ✠ Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM 	19 ✠ Men's Breakfast at Wilson Ave. Hy-Vee - 7:30 AM ✠ Quilters - 8:30 AM ✠ Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM ✠ Session meeting - 7:00 PM	20 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 7 AM ✠ Common Meal - 5:15 PM ✠ Youth Group - 5:45 PM ✠ Choir - 6:45 PM ✠ Worship Team - 8:30 PM	21 ✠ 89.1 The Spirit Family Skate - 6:30-8:30 PM	22 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 3 PM 	23 ✠ JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes at Westdale Mall- 8 AM - 12 PM
24 ✠ Worship Service - 9:30 AM Teaching: Karen McCaa ✠ Sunday School - 10:45 AM	25 ✠ Youth Ministry Prayer - 7 PM	26 ✠ Quilters - 8:30 AM ✠ Adult Bible Study - 1:30 PM ✠ Parent's Meeting at Collins Rd Panera- 8 PM	27 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 7 AM ✠ Common Meal - 5:15 PM ✠ Youth Group - 5:45 PM ✠ Choir - 6:45 PM ✠ Worship Team - 8:30 PM	28 ✠ Lunch Bunch- 11:30 AM	29 ✠ Marion HS Bible Study - 3 PM	

2008